LITERACY

212 An effort was made to ascertain the number of literates.
162 In addition to people who were educated at Government and private schools those who had learned to read and write at Quran schools were counted as literate. The first Government school was opened in 1919 and during the last twenty years the number of schools for boys and girls has steadily increased. Persons registered as literate amounted to 14,057. If Europeans and Indians were deducted from this total there remain about 10,000 literates among the local population of 105,000, approximately 10% of the indigenous population being literate. This percentage, for Bahrain, is not low.

HOUSES

● 362 All occupied houses were numbered and counted; in some cases a "house" consisted of one small hut, in other cases it was a building occupied by thirty or forty members and hangers-on of one family. Empty houses, of which there were none in Manamah and few in Muharraq, were not included. The number of houses in Manamah was 5,703 and in Muharraq 3,720; in the first census the numbers were 4,051 and 3,155 respectively. In nine years 1,600 new houses have been built in Manamah and 500 in Muharraq. In both towns the proportion of stone houses has increased considerably. The figures for houses in [621 342] the villages are less accurate, it was often difficult to determine where one dwelling, consisting of a group of huts in a compound, ended and the next dwelling began. The census showed 6,232 houses in the villages and islands as against 5,575 in 1941. Taking the whole population and the number of houses, the average number of persons occupying one house was 6½.

MUNICIPALITIES

MANAMA MUNICIPALITY

(From the report of Mr. Mohamed Saleh Shater, Secretary of the Manama Municipality)

633 795 At the beginning of the year, owing to sectarian differences between Sunni and Shia members in 1371 A.H. which caused the resignation of the Shia members, Municipal affairs were being dealt with by a committee of Sunnis. This was the situation until the middle of the year when the Government succeeded in persuading the Shia members to resume their duties on the Council. They returned on the understanding that they would serve for only one year after which an election should be held.

During the latter part of the year the Council functioned in a more or less normal manner; by shelving all matters which might cause controversy between the sects the Council succeeded in performing its duties without serious differences. The situation, however, was not satisfactory.

633 **Finance.** The Financial Committee which drew up the budget was formed from the temporary Sunni committee. Estimated revenue for 1372 was Rs. 7,04,000 and expenditure was assessed at the same figure. The actual revenue exceeded the estimate by Rs. 1,16,000, the expenditure was Rs. 61,000 more than was expected and at the end of the year a surplus of revenue over expenditure amounting to Rs. 61,000 was added to the Reserve which was then Rs. 2,83,000.

651 427 The increase in revenue was due to a great extent to higher receipts from house and shop taxes. There were many new buildings in the town and higher rents were charged for existing buildings, both for houses and shops. House taxes and shop taxes on buildings which are leased are charged on a percentage basis of the rent. Taxation on houses which are occupied by their owners is extremely low in comparison with that of rented premises. A large proportion of the rented houses are occupied by foreigners and most of the houses in which the owners live are occupied by people of the country.

425 653 368 During the year the Municipality sold land to the public at the price of Rs. 35,200 and it purchased a new fire engine for Rs. 48,000. The Government presented to the Municipality a motor-driven trailer fire pump and jeep, a rubbish carrying vehicle and a gully emptying vehicle.

364 **Municipal activities.** Town cleaning was effected during the year by two trucks and 30 donkey carts, town rubbish was utilised to reclaim a large portion of sea on the shore at Hora, opposite Cable and Wireless premises. The method of employing donkey carts to carry town refuse is not a satisfactory one. An order was placed in England during the summer for small rubbish-carrying vehicles which can be used in narrow streets.

363 A number of roads in the town were metalled, the area dealt with was about 380,000 square feet on which was used 480,000 cubic feet of stone and 105,000 cubic feet of sand, the whole costing approximately Rs. 1,76,000.

363 247 Some progress was made in widening streets in the bazaar area, 112 new street lights were installed and more trees were planted on the roads, unfortunately each year a number of trees are destroyed, by wind or sometimes by rain which when it falls strongly seems to kill both plants and trees.

362 427 There was much building activity both in the town and on the outskirts of the town, numbers of small houses were built for occupation by their owners and more European style bungalows and flats were built for letting. House rents are excessively high, landlords expect to recover the cost of their property in less than ten years, so building houses for letting is at present a profitable investment. However, so many houses are now being built that it seems possible that in a short time there may be more houses than tenants.

633 342 During the year permits for new buildings were issued by the Municipality for 144 stone houses and 100 barasti huts and permits for repairs and additions to 186 shops and 717 houses were also granted.

* [A.D. 1951-52 -- Analyst]

Sales and Land Values. The aggregate value of the property which was sold was approximately 40 lakhs, £300,000. In the previous year prices reached a somewhat higher figure but they included several sales of large areas of land on the edge of Manama. There has been no fall in land prices and there are no indications of a change in the situation. High prices are still being paid for building sites in Manama on which European style houses, flats and bungalows, are being built, which are let at excessively high rents. When the demand for houses of this type begins to lessen then rents will decrease and there are some signs that this event is not far off, several recently built houses have "To Let" notices on their doors. At present as much as Rs. 1,000/- per month is being charged for a three-bedroom, dining-sitting-room bungalow on the Jufair Road.

A recent satisfactory development has been the demand by working class men to buy small building plots in Manama, Muharraq, Hidd and Rafaa. The building loan schemes of the Government and the Bahrain Petroleum Company have stimulated this development. At one time people were satisfied to live in hired houses or barastis for which they paid rent but now, partly owing to the rapaciousness of landlords and partly because it has become everyone's ambition to own the house in which he lives, there is an active demand for plots of ground on which small houses can be built. Unfortunately the Government owns very little land in and around Manama and nobody wishes to live even at a short distance from the bazaar, the schools and the cinemas.

The most important sales were an Arab style house in the southern district of Manama, on Shaikh Isa Road, which was sold for Rs. 200,000 and a plot of land in the Qudhabia district which was bought by the Government as a site for workmen's dwellings for Rs. 2,57,000, at Rs. 2/5 per square foot. The Government sold 87 plots of land, in various places, for Rs. 3.50,000. Land on the edge of the towns of Manama and Muharraq was sold at prices ranging from Rs. 1/4 to Rs. 3/- per square foot. Thirty building plots were sold at East Rafaa, on the plain below the town, to residents of Rafaa, at 2 Annas per square foot. Land on this site was marked out as a residential area with rows of plots of uniform depth along future roads. At the end of the year a few purchasers had begun to build stone houses on the ground which they bought.

Legislation. In Safar (October 1952) an important Ordinance was issued which prohibited all persons subject to Bahrain jurisdiction from disposing of any property except to Bahrain subjects. An extension of this order was issued later providing for the contingency of heirs in an estate of a Bahrain subject being themselves foreign subjects. The result of these Ordinances was that not only were Bahrain subjects restricted from selling their property to foreigners but all persons subject to Bahrain jurisdiction, Persians, subjects of Saudi Arabia and of other Gulf States, were restricted from selling their property to each other or to nationals of other countries. Only foreigners not under the jurisdiction of the Bahrain Courts were free to sell their property to other foreigners. The object of the Government is to prevent land in Bahrain from being alienated and it is hoped that in future this legislation will be further extended to preclude all foreigners in Bahrain from disposing of their property to any persons who are not Bahrain subjects.

The imposition of this ordinance caused some resentment among foreigners especially among Saudi Arabians and Persians who in the past have acquired extensive property in Bahrain. This ordinance was probably the cause of some reduction in the number of large land sales during 1372.

One of the reasons why the Government now has so little land at its disposal in Manama and on the outskirts of the town is because in the past large pieces of land were either sold or given to Persians and Saudi Arabians. In the former category is one of the principal landowners in the town. The only area of any size, suitable for development as a housing area, is the land on the south-west of Manama which is now occupied by the installations of Cable and Wireless Ltd. Arrangements are being made for the Company to move out into the country to a site on the Aali plain, but this move will take some time to be carried out.

Rents of Government Shops. The Department collected rents amounting to Rs. 51,000/- from the shops in Barrett Road and from the flat above the Post Office and Rs. 20,000/- from rents of 26 plots of land which were let on leases. Temporary leases of land produced Rs. 3,800.

bazaar, a movie theatre, branches of the Eastern Bank and the Imperial Bank of Persia, a post office, a broadcasting station and a single gas station.

Little by little Manama is being modernized and the houses built by the Standard Oil Company for its American and British employees serve as models for the natives in the improvement of their own. There are three hospitals, one operated by the Bahrein Oil Company; a second, for men and women, with a British staff, by the government; and the third by the Arabia Mission of the Dutch Reformed Church in America. However, the facilities of these few establishments are quite limited and even under normal conditions 85% of the population suffers from one or more ailments.

The diseases endemic in Bahrein are malaria, the entire group of fevers, dysentery both amoebic and bacillary, bilharzia, trachoma and ankylostomiasis. At the head of the list should go the entire family of venereal diseases. Prostitution, forbidden in Saudi Arabia, has increased greatly under the complacent eyes of the authorities and Bahrein has become a kind of "pleasure island" where thousands of native and foreign employees of the oil companies from Arabia spend their leaves and money buying cheap pleasure, drinking arak, a 100 proof, colorless distillation of dates, contributing to vice and the propagation of disease.

The island is liable to epidemics of plague and cholera. From 1905 to 1911 Bahrein was visited every second year by plague and during the epidemic of 1911, in Manama, Muharraq and adjacent villages alone, more than two thousand persons died. Since World War I international control of plague and more vigorous quarantine measures by the British administration have limited the recurrence of this disease. Since 1920 epidemics of plague have occurred only at five year intervals.

Cholera epidemics are less frequent, probably because the water supply is less open to contamination than formerly. However, last year's epidemic was as serious in Bahrein as in the other ports of the Persian Gulf.

Bapco" has some two hundred homes for married members of the oil company staff and others are under construction. In addition there are office buildings, bachelors' quarters, a club, an eighteen hole golf course, a restaurant, and a new, completely air conditioned hospital for the native employees of the company. All homes and living quarters and most of the commercial buildings are connected with three central air conditioning plants where water is chilled to a temperature of forty-five to fifty degrees Fahreinheit then piped underground to each building, where it is circulated through grilles. In the winter heat is furnished by circulating hot water in the same manner. All drinking water in both the refinery and camp is distilled.

The other villages of importance on the west coast, reading from north to south, are:

HUWAR—Located close to the coast of Qatar.
HAMALA.
DAMISTAN.
KARZAKKAN.
MALIKIYA.
SADAD.
SHAHRAKAN.
DAR KULAIB.

On the east coast, from north to south, the important villages are:

JUFAR.
GHURAIFA, with a loading terminal and a nearby military seaplane base with anchorage facilities and limited refueling service.
SILHAT.
KUWARA.
SANAD.
NUWAIDRAT, near the refinery. It has palm groves and is an important center of native trade, where most of the local employees of the oil company live.
MA'AMIR, a small village located on the canal separating the island of Sitra from Bahrein.
FARSIYA.

000 and Pakistan. Regular air communications
509 are maintained to Iraq and Arabia, and the airport on Muharraq Island also serves international airlines with terminals in Europe, the Middle East and the Far East.
491 Motor roads connect the towns and the villages on the different islands, and extend across causeways from Bahrain to Muharraq and Sitra. The local transport facilities are well developed, and motor bus routes link most of the population centers.

Food and Nutrition

262 The food habits of the diverse racial
146 groups are varied, but serious undernutri-
464 tion is seldom encountered, except among the migratory laborers from the mainland and the Baharna and Arabs in the agri-
439 cultural and the fishing villages. The islands
656 are dependent upon imports for a large proportion of their food supply. The government controls certain essential foodstuffs, as wheat, rice and sugar, and regulates prices through a system of rationing.

262 The diet of the average Bahraini consists
439 of dates, bread, rice and fish, supplemented by native vegetables in season and limited amounts of meat and milk. Goats are raised in many villages, though their milk is usually scanty and poor in quality. Most of the meat is imported from Iran, and is correspondingly expensive. An assortment of fruits and vegetables is generally obtainable in Manama markets by those who are able to purchase them.

Housing

362 Manama is a cosmopolitan town, and the changes which have come about within the last two decades are reflected in the construction of increasing numbers of modern-type dwellings. Muharraq, in contrast, is a
342 distinctly Arab community. Coral blocks, coral slabs and plaster are the usual building materials in the older houses, while cement is used extensively in the newer buildings. The typical Arab-style homes are built around inner courts and have utilitarian